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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 000672

SIPDIS

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/E

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SUBJECT: DEMARCHE RESPONSE: SOMALIA IGAD PEACE SUPPORT MISSION

REF: STATE 25149

Classified By: PRMOFF MARC J. MEZNAR. REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) Summary: The EU is concerned about the possibility of an outbreak of violence in Somalia in the event of an IGAD deployment. They are also worried that IGAD lacks the capacity to plan or run a peacekeeping operation. End summary.

2. (C) On February 11, PRMOFF delivered reftel talking points to Mark Boucey, DG DEV officer at the European Commission (EC) temporarily covering Somalia. He said that an EU delegation was currently in Nairobi and had plans to travel to Mogadishu on February 13 to assess the feasibility of an AU peacekeeping mission. The EC has been considering funds for an AU mission in Somalia from its Africa Peace Facility instrument. Developments related to a possible IGAD force may alter this dynamic.

3. (C) Boucey said that the EC shared the U.S. concern about front-line states being involved in any peacekeeping operation -- IGAD or AU -- in Somalia. He said it was unclear whether the IGAD plan had the AU blessing. EC financial support for peacekeeping necessarily requires an official request from the AU; the political support of the Transitional Federal Government would also be an important factor in the EU's decision-making process.

4. (C/NF) In a separate meeting on February 11 prior to receipt of reftel, Christian Manahl, a member of the African Task Force within the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, told POLOFF that the EU is concerned that violence may erupt in Somalia "within days." Manahl suggested that the plan to deploy as many as 10,000 peacekeeping troops (the bulk of whom would be Ethiopian) into Somalia to support the relocation of the Somalia transitional government to Mogadishu triggered these fears. According to the Manahl, the one thing that Somalis are unified about is "hatred of Ethiopians." EU analysts fear that the deployment of Ethiopian forces will destabilize the situation and provoke violence.

5. (C/NF) During a separate office call on February 14 with Director for Defense Aspects of ESDP, Claude-France Arnould, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Africa Theresa Whelan discussed the situation in Somalia with EU staff experts. EU planner Matthew Reece, who had just returned that morning from Nairobi, warned that we must remain cognizant of AU sensitivities regarding outside assistance, but said they are making "wildcat plans". Reece said that although there is up to 6 million Euros available from the EU, IGAD has no staff and no structure to carry out the mission that they are contemplating. More specifically, he cited the physical lack of a plan for a Somalia operation and the lack of any political-military synchronization. In his view, the IGAD fact-finding mission was sent off with no hope of success. He also predicted that IGAD would come to the EU for more money, even though they have no plan to provide resources to those who will carry out any proposed mission. Noting an AU desire to re-establish its primacy over IGAD, he suggested that the way ahead was to deal with IGAD by showing that the AU was more capable of taking effective action. Reece urged that we continue to work the issue via the AU.

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